

Weekly Tech Wrap-up for 9/3/2010

Dear Faculty and Staff,

We are off to a great start! Thank you so much for your patience and cooperation this week. I know it has been rough at times. As Mr. Forster said, "There will be bumps in the road." And I am sure there will be more.

It is my plan to send out a brief weekly wrap-up of what progress we have made and what we can look forward to in the coming weeks. This is the first installment. I will attach handouts like the one had for the Vision6 training on Tuesday. Please let me know if there are certain areas you would like to see addressed in this manner.

Change is a challenge. We are rising to the challenge of creating a new and more dynamic learning environment for our students. I keep thinking about the movie Remember the Titans. If Herman Boone and Bill Yost could take on the task of racially integrating rival high school football teams we can certainly make it through the integration of technology into our curriculum.

When speaking to a group of business leaders in 2007 Coach Boone left them with this quote used by Coach Vince Lombardi, "Your beliefs become your thoughts. Your thoughts become your words. Your words become your actions. Your actions become your habits. Your habits become your values. Your values become your destiny." In the middle of all of that is mention of our words and actions. If we keep those positive we will certainly continue to see success. Here is a link to an article relating to this event http://www.imakenews.com/orcc/e_article000770601.cfm?x=b11,0,w

Again, thank you. It is a privilege to work with you all.

Ann B.

Some of the Things What We Have Learned

Vision6

It is important that you disconnect each classroom at the end of the period. This frees the student computer to be used by the next teacher. A student computer can only be accessed by one teacher at a time. This should answer the question "Why is the thumbnail only showing a black screen?"

SMART Boards

Amber Martino showed Jill Adams that you can use the "Freeze" button (the bottom right-hand button) on the projector remote to lock the projection on the screen. Then you are able to go to your computer, minimize the document/website you are projecting and work on your desktop without the students seeing what you are doing.

Power School

You can put the shortcut icon on your desktop yourself. Anna Benvenuti has been telling us this for years, but Marci Ziegler tried it and it works. See the attachment "**How to Get an Icon**

on Your Desktop". Note, the icon for Power School may come up as "Power Teacher" sees the attachment for a picture.

Wikiracing

If you did not see the article in the Tuesday edition of the News-Herald there is now something called wikiracing. Jan Hines brought me a copy of the article and it is posted on the door to Room 108A.

Looking Ahead

Vision6

The next thing many of you will want to know is how to remove a student from a classroom when they transfer. See the attached handout "**Vision 6 Removing a Computer from a Classroom**"

Student Email

We would like to have the student begin using their school Gmail. I will be sending out information on how to access these accounts in the very near future. Our hope is for the school announcements to be distributed in this manner. The easiest way for you to receive and send email to students will be with your own Google account. If you do not already have one send me an email at blacka@fasd.k12.pa.us and I will set it up for you.

SMART Boards

Posting SMART Files in PDF Through Moodle or SchoolWires

Several teachers have asked about posting files for student access. I am putting together a handout and will have it available next week.

Using SMART Notebook on Your Home Computer

As a District employee you are able to load SMART Notebook 10.6 software on your home computer. That way you do not need to be at school to prepare lessons. Let me know if you would like to do this and we will get you the necessary materials.